

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15

SAM-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 /103 W

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R 141248Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9204

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

UNCLAS CAIRO 0488

EO 11562: NA

TAGS: TECH EG

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON FOREIGN ENERGY PROGRAMS

REF: 75 STATE 30142,

1. REFTEL POSES PROBLEMS IN PREPARING USEFUL ANSWERS WITH REGARD TO EGYPT. LACK OF ENERGY IS NOT PERCEIVED AS SIGNIFICANT RESTRAINT ON DEVELOPMENT (SEE 1975 CAIRO 9191). ENERGY R AND D THUS IS LOWER BY FAR THAN MOST OTHER REQUIREMENTS ENUNCIATED BY GOE IN ITS PLANNING AND BUDGETING EXERCISES AND IS NOT SEEN AS AREA OF PRIORITY CONCERN.

2. IDENTIFIABLE ENERGY R AND D EFFORTS ARE DIVIDED AMONG SEVERAL GOVT. AGENCIES, CHIEF AMONG WHICH ARE MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER (MINELECTRIC), MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND MINISTRY OF SCIENTIFIC RESERACH AND ATOMIC ENERGY (MINSICI). ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY, WHICH IS NOMINALLY UNDER MINSICI, IS ESPECIALLY CHARGED WITH RECOMMENDING FUTURE RESEARCH; ONE OF ITS 14 RESEARCH COUNCILS IS CONCERNED SPECIFICALLY WITH ENERGY QUESTIONS. NATIONAL RESERACH CENTER, AFFILIATED WITH ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, CARRIES OUT ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SOLAR AND WIND POWERED R AND D.

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OFFSHOOT OF THIS CENTER IS PETROLEUM RESEARCH INSTITUTE

RECENTLY RELOCATED WITHIN MINPETROLEUM AND EXPECTED TO BE OPERATIONAL BY FEBRUARY 1976.

3. ACCORDING MINSCI OFFICIAL, GOE'S ENERGY R AND D INTERESTS CENTER ON A) ATOMIC, B) PETROLEUM AND C) SOLAR SOURCES OF POWER, IN THAT ORDER. LITTLE RESERACH IN HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER IS UNDERWAY AT PRESENT AND NONE IN GEOTHERMAL SOURCES. MINSCI OFFICAL COMMENTED THAT PETROLEUM R AND D IS IMPORTANT IN TERMS OF POLITICAL REALITIES BUT ATOMIC ENERGY TAKES PRECEDENCE IN CONTEXT OF PLANNED RESERACH.

4. MINELECTRIC UNDERSEC GAVE US DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE IN SEPARATE INTERVIEW, NOTING THAT SINCE DEVELOPMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY SOURCES IS SO FAR ADVANCED, REACTORS ARE COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE AND EGYPT BASICALLY IS FACED WITH QUESTIONS OF CHOICE OF LWR TECHNOLOGY AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, RATHER THAN NUCLEAR R AND D. LARGEST SINGLE PROJECT HE CLASSIFIED AS R AND D IS QUATTARA DEPRESSION FEASIBILTIY SUTDY UNDERWAY WITH FRG COOPERATION. ANOTHER STUDY PROJECT MENTIONED INVOLVES AN AKLAHOMA UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED 60 KW WIND-DRIVEN GENERATOR. (WE HAVE SEEN REPORTS, AS WELL, OF PLANS FOR SOLAR ENERGY RESEARCH WITH FRENCH AID FUNDING.) ALL OF THESE ARE RESEARCH PROJECTS BEING CONDUCTED LARGELY BY NON-GOE EXPERTS. ONLY CURRENT IN-HOUSE MINELECTIRIC R AND D OF SIGNIFICANCE IS IN AREA OF NETWORK LOAD DISTRIBTION AND SIMILAR PROBLEMS (SEE STATE 3979 FOR STATUS OF PROPOSED USAID ASSISTANCE TO MINELECTRIC ENERGE-RELATED STUDIES). UNDERSEC WAS PARTICULARLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HYDROELECTRIC POTENTIAL OF QUATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT WHICH HAS BEEN UNDER STUDY FOR MANY YEARS NOW AND WTH WHICH DEPARTMENT IS FAMILIAR.

5. GOE OFFICIALS TELL US THAT SEPARATE BUDGET DATA PERTAINING TO ENERGY R AND D IS COMPLETELY UNAVILABLE. IN THEORY AN INDICATION COULD BE GIVEN BY TOTAL OF CERTAIN BUDGET ITEMS FOR A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH R AND D (PARA 2 ABOVE), BUT EGYPTIAN BUDGET IS AGGREGATED TO EXTENT IDENTIFICATIKON OF LINE ITEM EXPENDITURES IS VIRUTALLY UNCLASSIFIED

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IMPOSSIBLE TASK. ONLY FUNDS CLEARLY RELATED TO R AND D WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIND IN DRAFT 1976 BUDGET (NOT YET PUBLISHED IN FINAL FORM) ARE LE11.3 MILLION (\$28.9 MILLION) FOR PETROLEUM "RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION", LE1.4 MILLION (\$3.5 MILLION) TOTAL TO ACADEMY FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND LE 600,000 (\$1.5 MILLION) FOR NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER, OF WHICH LE70,000 (\$179,00) APPARENTLY WILL GO TO "RESEARCH PROGRAMS," AND LE97,000 (\$248,000)

FOR ATOMIC ENERGY PURPOSES. MINSCI BUDGET AS SUCH IS NOT IDENTIFIABLE IN FIGURES AVAILABLE TO US. GOE CONTRIBUTION TO QUATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT TOTALS LE ONE MILLION (IN ADDITION TO FRG FUNDING OF \$4.2 MILLION EQUIVALENT), BUT WE DO NOT HAVE FIGURES ON ANNUAL BASIS.

6. WE JUDGE, THEREFORE, GOE-FUNDED ENERGY R AND D GUDGET AT THIS STAGE IS ALMOST NEGLIGIBLE SUM SPREAD THINLY AMONG SEVERAL AGENCIES. MINSCI HAS PROMISED BUDGETARY AND OTHER INFORMATION ALONG LINES OF REFTEL, WHICH WE WILL FORWARD AS SOON AS AVAILABLE.

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